

A baron of laughs!

This man tells lies, lies and more lies . . . and you'd better believe it!

KARL FRIEDRICH Hieronymus, the Baron von Munchausen, was regarded as probably the greatest liar of the 18th century.

After serving Frederick the Great as a cavalry officer in foreign campaigns, the Baron returned home and, in sharing his war-time experiences with friends, spoke of some fantastic incidents.

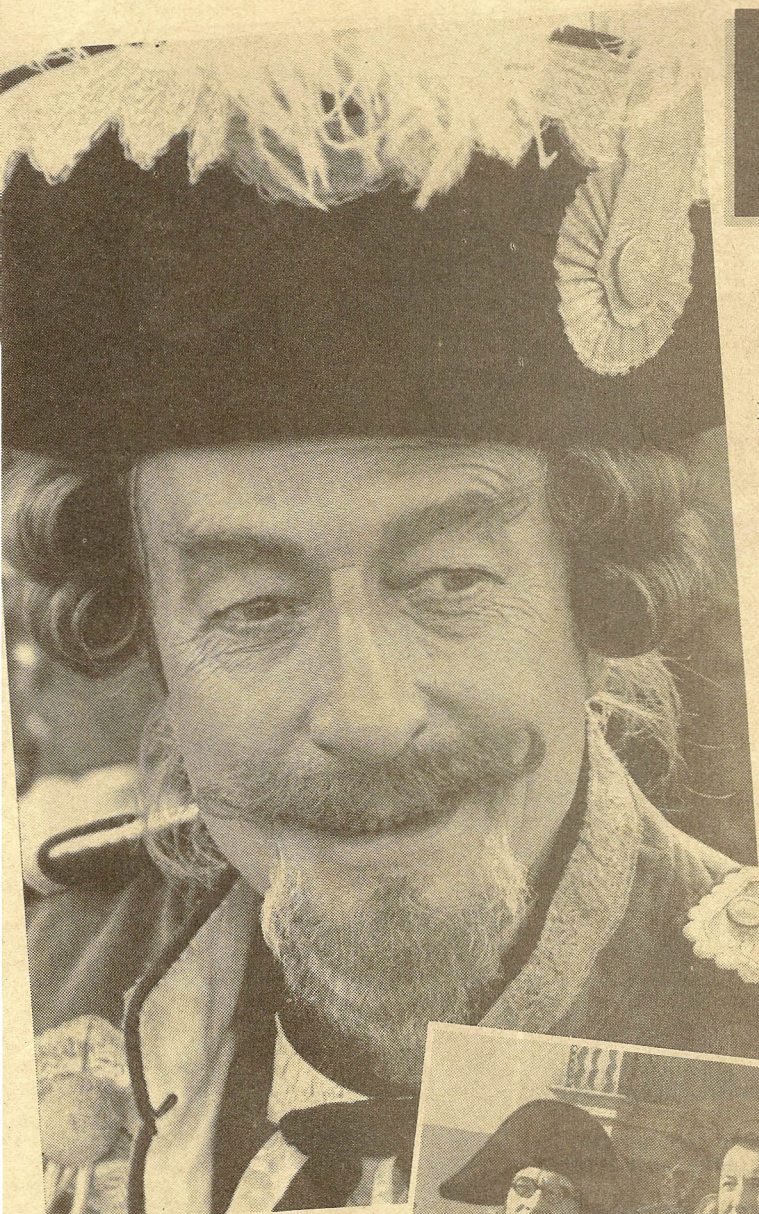
No one believed him but 200 years later no one has ever proven him wrong, either. Now, in fact, filmmaker Terry Gilliam is about to make you believe everything the baron said.

Gilliam — "He's a

sort of mad, modern Disney," says his former Monty Python cohort Eric Idle — has made *The Adventures Of Baron Munchausen*, due to open in Hoyts cinemas around Australia next month.

It follows the baron (played by John Neville) and his unlikely companion, 10-year-old Sally Salt (Sarah Polley), on a journey which is . . . well, unbelievable!

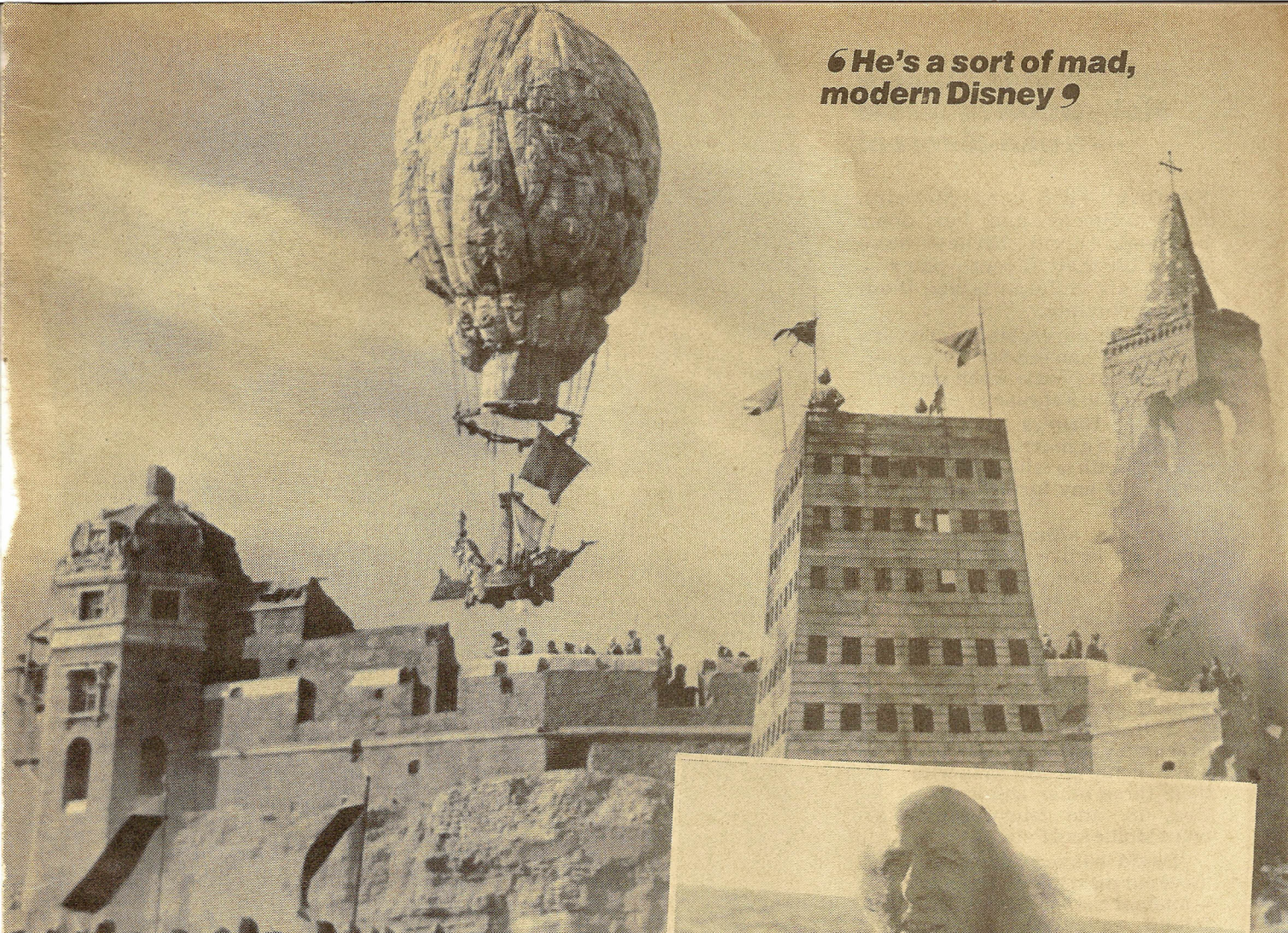
It starts in an 18th century European city besieged by the Turkish army. In the bombed out main square is the Theatre Royal, where a motley assortment of citizens are sheltering and watching — performed for the first time in years — a play based on Rudolf



ABOVE: Respected Shakespearean actor John Neville plays Baron Munchausen in the new movie from Terry Gilliam.
RIGHT: The baron with his four amazing friends, played by Charles McKeown, Eric Idle, Jack Purvis and Winston Dennis.



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Erich Raspe's 1785 book *Baron Munchausen's Narrative Of His Marvelous Travels And Campaigns In Russia*, regarded then as a satire!

The performance is interrupted by an old man shouting: "Lies, lies, lies!" It is the one and only baron himself, claiming the reason for the bombardment is that the Turks are still pursuing him because of a bet he made, and won, years before with their sore loser of a sultan.

To prove his claims he promises to save the city ... if the citizens will help him find his four closest friends: Albrecht (Winston Dennis), the strongest man on Earth; Berthold (Eric Idle), the fastest man alive; Adolphus (Charles McKeown), who can see farther than a telescope; and Gustavus (Jack Purvis), who can blow harder than a hurricane.

ABOVE: It's up and away in a balloon of silken knickers!

RIGHT: Eric Idle as Berthold and Sarah Polley as Sally Salt.

The women of the town give up their silken knickers to help create a hot-air balloon in which the baron and stowaway Sally set off.

They visit the moon, meet the god Vulcan (Oliver Reed) and his bride Venus in the core of the Earth and are swallowed by a sea monster.

And on each part of the journey they find one of the baron's old friends.

"This sort of movie hasn't been made lately," says John Neville, the respected Shakespearean actor who plays the title role.

"It may be the time for a movie for those between the ages of 12 and 70."

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